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Love of America helps student win contest

By **JOCELYN MARINO**
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His genuine appreciation of diversity in American lead one Warren Consolidated Schools fifth-grader to win an essay contest.

Susick Elementary School student Leonard Norman won first place in the "Celebrate America" creative writing contest sponsored by the University of Detroit Mercy Law School. The topic of the essay was "Why I love that America is filled with immigrants."

Susick teacher Linda Dell said the contest, sponsored by the American

Immigration Lawyers Association, said that fifth-graders from across southeastern Michigan participated in the contest.

"Leonard did very, very well with his assignment and I am very proud of him," Dell said. "He has matured a lot in his writing this year and really stepped up to the challenge."

Norman said that the contest initially began as a school assignment that everyone had to do.

"I actually forgot about the assignment, but with my mom's help, I finished," Norman said. "She taught me a new word,

which was diversity."

Norman said that without diversity, all the different groups would have to be separated, which he doesn't think is fair.

"I am pretty excited but my mom is more excited than me," Norman said.

Norman, who likes to play basketball, baseball and video games, said that he would like to be a professional athlete when he is older. He has one brother and two sisters.

"The funny thing is, writing isn't even my favorite," Norman said.

Norman will receive a certificate and a dinner will be given in his honor in June or July.